

Serial No.: 09/889,099

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims has not changed, and the total number of claims has not changed.

Telephone Interview Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner for her time and comments made during a telephone interview on 15 December 2003. The Examiner indicated that the Amendment filed on 04 November 2003 overcame the objection to the drawings and the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112. Additionally, the independent claims, Claims 1 and 5, were generally discussed. More particularly, differences between the large-area radiator of homogeneous luminance of this invention and the television display of U.S. Patent 4,227,114 were discussed. The Examiner agreed to consider this Supplemental Amendment, by which Applicants amend Claims 1 and 5 to further clarify the claimed invention by reciting discussed differences. No agreement was reached as to particular claim language or allowable subject matter.

Serial No.: 09/889,099

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 5 to further clarify the claimed invention. Support for this Amendment can be found at page 2, the second and third full paragraph, page 3, second full paragraph, and page 7, last paragraph (continuing onto page 8), of Applicants' Substitute Specification, as well as in FIGS. 1-5.

No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Prior Art Rejections

In furtherance to the arguments presented in the Amendment dated 04 November 2003, Applicants urge that the above Supplemental Amendment clarifies the claimed invention and overcomes the rejection of all claims made in the Office Action mailed 04 June 2003. The invention of amended Claims 1 and 5 is a novel large-area radiator of homogeneous luminance. The large-area radiator includes a front pane, a rear element, and spacer elements extending from the front pane to the rear element. Each of the spacer elements includes one end in contact with the front pane and an opposing end in contact with the rear element to keep the front pane apart from the rear element. The large area radiator includes a gaseous filler within a space between the front pane and the rear element that provides the homogeneous luminance, such as upon electrical activation.

Serial No.: 09/889,099

The primary reference relied upon by the Examiner, the De Jule Patent, U.S. Patent 4,227,114, discloses a cathodoluminescent gas discharge television screen and does not teach or suggest a large-area radiator of homogeneous luminance including the claimed spacer elements extending from the front pane to the rear element.

Applicants urge that the above Supplemental Amendment clarifies the differences between the claimed invention and the cited prior art, particularly the De Jule Patent. Applicants assert that the De Jule Patent neither anticipates nor renders obvious, alone or in combination with the other cited references, Applicants' claimed invention.

In addition, Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to the rejection of Claims 11 and 15 over particular references in view of Hashimoto et al., JP 2000-357463. The Hashimoto et al. Abstract lists a publication date of 26 December 2000 and a filing date of 09 November 2000. The subject U.S. Patent Application has a U.S. filing date of 22 October 2001 and a priority date of 11 January 1999. Applicants assert that the Hashimoto et al. Abstract is not prior art to the subject U.S. Patent Application. Also, the Hashimoto et al. discloses "zigzagging" electrodes and not spacer elements that are wavy, as in Applicants' invention of Claim 11 and 15.

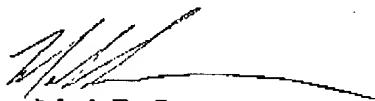
Serial No.: 09/889,099

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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